

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 142266
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 EB-08 COME-00
TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 MCT-01 AID-05 /158 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USICA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 142266

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY PRAIA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

UNCLAS STATE 142266

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOON BRIEFING, JUNE 5, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY THE
OFFICIAL VERSION WILL FOLLOW.

Q: DOES THE UNITED STATES FAVOR THE SENDING OF AN ALL-
AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCE OVER, LET'S SAY A UNITED NATIONS
PEACEKEEPING FORCE, TO SHABA PROVINCE?

A: THE GENERAL QUESTION OF WHAT OUGHT TO BE DONE IN ZAIRE,
OF COURSE, IS, AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, FIRST AND FOREMOST A
MATTER OF INTEREST TO ZAIRE -- THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 142266

WHAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN DOING IS, AS WE'VE EXPRESSED BE-
FORE, DISCUSSING WHATEVER POSSIBILITIES EXIST FOR INSURING
THE SECURITY OF ZAIRE -- IN PARTICULAR, THE SHABA PROVINCE
-- AND THAT SECURITY BEING DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE ABILITY
OF THE NATION OF ZAIRE TO SURVIVE ECONOMICALLY.

Q: ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE PARIS MEETING TODAY?

A: I WAS ASKED A MORE GENERAL QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER WE
FAVOR A UN FORCE MORE THAN A PAN-AFRICAN FORCE, AND I DON'T
THINK IT'S A QUESTION OF FAVORING ONE MORE THAN THE OTHER
IN ZAIRE.

Q: IS THAT GOING TO COME UP IN THE ECONOMIC TALKS?

A: I AM NOT SURE THE UN QUESTION WILL ARISE THERE.

Q: WHAT IS THE AMERICAN VIEW ON A UN FORCE? CERTAINLY THE
UNITED STATES HAS SUPPORTED A UN FORCE IN OTHER PLACES,
AND YET WE HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT THAT IDEA UP TILL TODAY.

A: I WILL REPEAT, OF COURSE, FOR A UN FORCE TO GO TO ZAIRE, YOU NEED TO HAVE AN INVITATION FROM ZAIRE -- OR AT LEAST SOME READY WILLINGNESS FROM ZAIRE TO ENCOURAGE SUCH A POSSIBILITY.

Q: WELL, OR POSSIBLY ENCOURAGEMENT BY THE WESTERN COUNTRIES TO HAVE IT INVITED -- A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE?

A: IN ANY CASE, WE'RE WILLING TO DISCUSS ALMOST ANYTHING WHICH ZAIRE FEELS WOULD BE IN THE INTERESTS OF ITS SECURITY AND STABILITY.

Q: THE REASON I ASK IS THAT THE BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER, IN AN INTERVIEW, HAS SAID HE WOULD PREFER TO HAVE A UN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 142266

PEACEKEEPING FORCE OR AN OAU PEACEKEEPING FORCE -- ANYTHING BUT A FRENCH-SPONSORED FORCE OF FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES.

A: I'M CONFIDENT THAT THAT POINT OF VIEW HAS BEEN REGISTERED BY THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER.

Q: AND THE UNITED STATES DOESN'T COME DOWN WITH ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER?

A: THE UNITED STATES IS INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING THE WHOLE MATTER. THE UNITED STATES DOESN'T HAVE (A POSITION) WHICH IT'S TRYING TO FOIST ON ANYBODY.

Q: IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT READY TO PRODUCE ANY OF THE EVIDENCE WHICH HAS BEEN CITED BY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ON THE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT NOW?

A: NO, WE'RE NOT. I UNDERSTAND THAT ADMINISTRATION REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE TALKING TO CONGRESS THIS WEEK AND PRODUCING WHAT WE BELIEVE IS ADEQUATE EVIDENCE ON THE SUBJECT. BEYOND THAT I DON'T HAVE ANY SCHEDULE FOR YOU ON THE QUESTION OF WHEN OR WHAT EVIDENCE MIGHT BE MADE PUBLIC.

Q: WHO'S DOING THIS TALKING?

A: AT THIS POINT THE ONLY SCHEDULE THAT I KNOW OF IS ADMIRAL TURNER'S THIS WEEK. ACTUALLY I SHOULDN'T BE SPEAKING FOR THE CIA, BUT IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THAT HE WILL HAVE STARTED TESTIFYING BEFORE ONE OF THE SELECT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES THIS AFTERNOON. IT WILL BE CLOSED.

Q: DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT FAVOR THE EXTENDING OF LOANS TO THE WORLD BANK TO COUNTRIES THAT HARBOR AND TRAIN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 142266

TERRORISTS OR NOT, OR WHAT ARE WE, NEUTRAL ON IT? THE REASON I ASK, ANY MAYBE YOU COULD TAKE IT IN THIS CONTEXT, IS THAT REPRESENTATIVE POAGE OF TEXAS HAS CHARGED THAT ZAMBIA HAS PROVIDED UNRESTRICTED PASSAGE FOR THE CUBAN TRAINED KATANGAN TERRORISTS THAT ATTACKED ZAIRE AND THAT IT IS A PRIME STAGING AREA FOR THE TERRORIST GROUPS WHICH HAVE KILLED INNOCENT PEOPLE IN RHODESIA. AND YET THE WORLD BANK RECENTLY MADE A LOAN TO ZAMBIA.

I AM WONDERING WHAT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION? DOES IT DISAGREE WITH REPRESENTATIVE POAGE?

A: FIRST, I AM NOT SO SURE WHAT THE EVIDENCE SHOWS ON TRANSIT IN THAT QUESTION. I DON'T NEED TO GO FIND OUT BECAUSE THE REAL QUESTION IS, ARE WE IN FAVOR OF HELPING ZAMBIA AND WE HAVE ALREADY TOLD PRESIDENT KAUNDA THAT WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO SOME OF HIS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND INTEND TO DO WHAT WE CAN. ON THE LARGER QUESTION OF WHAT IS GOING ON IN ZAMBIA, PHRASE ME A QUESTION AND I WILL GET YOU A PRECISE ANSWER.

Q: MY QUESTION IS: NUMBER ONE, IS REPRESENTATIVE POAGE

WRONG IN HIS STATEMENT THAT ZAMBIA PROVIDED UNRESTRICTED PASSAGE FOR THE CUBAN TRAINED KATANGAN TERRORISTS?

A: I THINK I WOULD HAVE TO SAY THAT HE IS WRONG IF "PROVIDED" MEANS GAVE ASSENT TO SUCH TRANSIT.

IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT YOU ARE SAYING IS THAT THEY WENT THROUGH AND IT IS YOUR ESTIMATION THAT THEY DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT OR WHAT?

A: I AM SAYING IF SUCH A THING OCCURRED, WHICH I AM NOT ABLE TO ANSWER DEFINITELY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 142266

Q: WELL, MAYBE YOU COULD ASK THAT. I UNDERSTAND THERE WAS PASSAGE THROUGH PART OF ZAMBIA BY THESE KATANGANS.

A: I AM NOT SURE THAT WE ARE GOING TO PROVIDE THAT KIND OF ON THE GROUND THING. I WILL SIMPLY TAKE THAT GENERAL QUESTION. VANCE

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